

Appl. No. 09/944,066
Amdt. Dated 12/14/2004
Reply to Office Action of 08/31/2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A layered and laminated fabric system comprising:

a first layer of fabric including therein at least one fiber of a first type having a tensile breaking strength of at least about 10g/Denier; and

a second layer, at least partially coextensive with and laminated to the first layer comprising a microporous membrane.

Claims 2-5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Original): The system as in claim 1, wherein the fiber of the first type is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of: para-aramids; liquid crystal polyesters; ultra-high molecular weight polyethylenes; and poly(p-phenylene-2,6-benzobisoxazole) (PBO).

Claim 7 (Original): The system as in claim 1, wherein the first layer consists essentially of fibers having a tensile breaking strength of at least about 10 g/Denier.

Claim 8 (Original): The system as in claim 1, wherein the first layer comprises a woven fabric having a fill yarn cover of at least about 75% and warp yarn cover factor of at least about 100%.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The system as in claim 8, further comprising:

a third layer of at least partially coextensive with and laminated to the first and second layers.

Claim 10 (Original): The system as in claim 9, wherein the third layer comprises a woven fabric formed of a plurality of fill yarns and a plurality of warp yarns, with a fill yarn cover factor of less than about 75% and a warp yarn cover factor of less than about 100%.

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Claim 11 (Original): The system as in claim 10, wherein the third layer includes therein at least one fiber of a second type a tensile breaking strength of less than about 10 g/Denier.

Claim 12 (Original): The system as in claim 11, wherein the fiber of the second type is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of: polyamides; cellulosic materials; polyesters; acrylic polymers; and polyolefins.

Claim 13 (Original): The system as in claim 11, wherein the third layer includes therein at least one yarn having a weight per unit length of between about 20 Denier and about 70 Denier.

Claim 14 (Original): The system as in claim 11, wherein the first layer comprises a woven fabric comprising a plurality of fill yarns and a plurality of warp yarns, wherein the fill yarns have a weight per unit length of a first value and the warp yarns have a weight per unit length of a second value that is greater than the first value.

Claim 15 (Original): The system as in claim 9, wherein the second layer is disposed between the first layer and the third layer.

Claim 16 (Original): The system as in claim 15, wherein the second layer comprises an adhesive coating attached to at least one of the first and third layer.

Claim 17 (Original): The system as in claim 16, wherein the second layer is attached to both the first layer and third layer, thereby securing the first layer to the third layer.

Claim 18 (Original): The system as in claim 16, wherein the adhesive coating is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of: urethane adhesives and acrylic latex adhesives.

Claim 19 (Original): The system as in claim 9, wherein the first layer comprises a felted fabric.

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Claim 20 (Original): The system as in claim 19, wherein the second layer is disposed between the first layer and the third layer.

Claim 21 (Original): The system as in claim 9, wherein the first layer is disposed between the second layer and the third layer.

Claim 22 (Original): The system as in claim 21, further comprising:
a fourth layer at least partially coextensive with the first, second, and third layers and disposed directly adjacent to the second layer.

Claim 23 (Original): The system as in claim 1, wherein the second layer comprises a coating adhered to at least a portion of a surface of the first layer.

Claim 24 (Original): The system as in claim 23, wherein the coating comprises a polymeric material having a modulus of elasticity of less than about 100,000 psi.

Claims 25-28 (Canceled)

Claim 29 (Original): The system as in claim 23, wherein the coating comprises a conformal coating on the surface.

Claim 30 (Original): The system as in claim 23, wherein the coating is permeable to water vapor but is substantially impermeable to liquid water.

Claim 31 (Original): The system as in claim 23, wherein the coating comprises a hydrophobic polymeric material.

Claim 32 (Original): The system as in claim 1, wherein the second layer comprises a separable layer that is not attached to the first layer.

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Claim 33 (Original): The system as in claim 1, wherein the second layer is attached to the first layer.

Claim 34 (Original): The system as in claim 33, wherein the second layer is attached to the first layer by an adhesive.

Claim 35 (Original): The system as in claim 34, wherein the adhesive comprises a material selected from the group consisting of: polyurethanes; acrylic polymers; and poly(vinyl chloride).

Claim 36 (Original): The system as in claim 33, wherein the second layer is attached to the first layer by thermal bonding.

Claim 37 (Original): The system as in claim 1, wherein the second layer comprises a hydrophobic membrane.

Claim 38 (Original): The system as in claim 37, wherein the hydrophobic membrane is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of: poly(tetrafluoroethylene); polyolefins; polyurethanes; and foamed neoprene rubber.

Claim 39 (Original): The system as in claim 37, wherein the membrane is permeable to water vapor but is substantially impermeable to liquid water.

Claims 40 - 199 (Canceled)